
Introduced by Senator Runner

May 18, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 30—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune
2 disease in which the body's soft tissues contract and harden from
3 an overproduction of collagen; and
4 WHEREAS, Scleroderma can affect many parts of the body,
5 including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels; and
6 WHEREAS, Scleroderma sufferers often experience damage
7 to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the gastrointestinal tract; and
8 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is associated with many other
9 conditions, including pulmonary hypertension, gastroparesis,
10 Raynaud's phenomenon, Sjögren's syndrome, and lupus; and
11 WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause
12 or causes of scleroderma; and
13 WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from
14 scleroderma, 80 percent of those being women; and
15 WHEREAS, Choctaw Native Americans, African Americans,
16 and Hispanics may be affected by scleroderma more severely than
17 Caucasians; and
18 WHEREAS, The estimated total economic impact of
19 scleroderma treatment is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion
20 annually; and
21 WHEREAS, There is a significant need for further research
22 focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase
23 understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and
24 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the
25 need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public

1 health and has designated June 2015 as National Scleroderma
2 Awareness Month; and

3 WHEREAS, The first Systemic Sclerosis World Congress was
4 held in Florence, Italy, where it was officially decided that June
5 29 would be recognized as World Scleroderma Day; and

6 WHEREAS, California also should designate a month as
7 Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about
8 autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding,
9 and effective treatments for those diseases; and

10 WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize
11 the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma
12 advocacy organizations to raise awareness of scleroderma and of
13 the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

14 WHEREAS, June 2015 would be an appropriate month to
15 designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
18 proclaims the month of June 2015 as Scleroderma Awareness
19 Month; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.